PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

Section 1. General administrative information

Title of project

Pine Creek Ranch Acquisition

BPA project number: 9802200
Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy): ☐ **Multiple actions?**

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Business acronym (if appropriate) CTWSRO

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

Name	Terry A. Luther
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NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses
7.6.A, 7.6.B, 7.6.C, 11.3.A, 11.3D

FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses

Other planning document references
Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project, BPA Wildlife Mitigation Program Final EIS, BPA Watershed Management Program Final EIS, Assessing OTAP Project Using GAP Analysis, CTWSRO Integrated Resource Management Plan, Wy Kan Ush Me Wa Kish Wit, CRITFC

Short description
Operations and Maintenance, Monitoring and Evaluation of Pine Creek Ranch.

Target species
Pine Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for one of the few remaining native steelhead populations in the lower John Day River basin. Nine of the target wildlife species identified in conjunction with the John Day project are present.

Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

Subbasin
John Day River

Evaluation Process Sort

CBFWA caucus	Special evaluation process	ISRP project type
Mark one or more caucus	If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both	Mark one or more categories
☒ Anadromous fish ☐ Resident fish ☒ Wildlife	☐ Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation) ☒ Watershed project evaluation	☐ Watershed councils/model watersheds ☐ Information dissemination ☒ Operation & maintenance ☐ New construction ☒ Research & monitoring ☒ Implementation & management ☐ Wildlife habitat acquisitions

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships. List umbrella project first.

Project #	Project title/description
9705900	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon
9705905	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, Ladd Marsh WMA Additions
9705906	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, McKenzie River Islands
9705907	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, E.E. Wilson WMA Additions
9705908	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, Multnomah Channel
9705909	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, Ruthton Point
9705910	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, Trout Creek Canyon
9705911	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, Irrigon WMA Additions
9705912	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, Wenaha WMA Additions
9705913	Securing wildlife mitigation sites - Oregon, South Fork Crooked River
9705915	Juniper Canyon and Columbia Gorge Wildlife Mitigation Project
9705916	Tualitin River National Wildlife Refuge Additions

Other dependent or critically-related projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9705900	Securing wildlife mitigation sites -	Umbrella Project; explains intent for

	Oregon	mitigation planning, coordination, and implementation by Oregon wildlife managers within Oregon. Indentifies priority projects with specific budgets that will help meet mitigation objectives.
9565	Assessing Oregon Trust Agreement Using GAP Analysis	A mitigation planning tool used to analyze and rank potential mitigation projects within the basin.
9284	Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project	A mitigation planning tool that includes methods for assembling a trust agreement and a list of potential mitigation projects.

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Past accomplishments

Year	Accomplishment	Met biological objectives?
1993	Particpated in creating a list of potential wildlife mitigation projects throughout Oregon.	N/A
1997	Identified Pine Creek Ranch as a potential mitigation site.	
1998	Began landowner negotiations for acquisition in cooperation with Trust for Public Lands and William Smith Properties.	

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Operation and Maintenance of the Pine Creek Ranch	a	Remove noxious weeds. remove livestock in degraded or sensitive areas, repair fences and gates, install cattleguards, close and or block uneccessary roads, improve riparion conditions, enhance upland habitat, work cooperatively with local landowners.
2	Evaluation and Monitoring	b	Conduct surveys of fish and wildlife

			populations and habitats. Monitor noxious weed distribution, upland vegetation and riparion condition. Monitor public use and access to Ranch property.

Objective schedules and costs

Obj #	Start date mm/yyyy	End date mm/yyyy	Measureable biological objective(s)	Milestone	FY2000 Cost %
1	1/2000	12/2000	Assessment of noxious weeds and other undesireable vegetation. Assessment of livestock. Assessment of riparion and upland conditions.		50.00%
2	1/2000	12/2000	Evaluation of fish and wildlife population response to management		50.00%
				Total	100.00%

Schedule constraints
The possible unwillingness of the landowner to sell the Ranch and funding problems.

Completion date
The NPPC's Fish and Wildlife program requires BPA to provide O&M funding for as long as the hydropower system operates. (NPPC 1994, Measure 11.2C.1)

Section 5. Budget

FY99 project budget (BPA obligated): $2,562,000

FY2000 budget by line item

Item	Note	% of total	FY2000
Personnel	Ranch Manager	%31	31,000
Fringe benefits	@23%	%7	7,130
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property	range drill, ATV, native plant seed, noxious weed controls, fence	%15	15,000

	supplies, gates, etc.		
Operations & maintenance	Buildings, vehicles, equipment	%15	15,000
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)			
NEPA costs			
Construction-related support			
PIT tags	# of tags:		
Travel			
Indirect costs	@41.4	%28	28,206
Subcontractor	Helicopter game survey	%2	2,000
Other			
TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST			$98,336

Cost sharing

Organization	Item or service provided	% total project cost (incl. BPA)	Amount ($)
CTWSRO	field survey and project assistance	%8	10,000
OMSI	project assistance	%8	10,000
ODFW	field survey assistance	%0	1,000
Total project cost (including BPA portion)			$119,336

Outyear costs

	FY2001	FY02	FY03	FY04
Total budget	$103,253	$108,416	$113,837	$119,529

Section 6. References

Watershed?	Reference
☐	Beschta, R. L., W.S. Platts, and J.B. Kauffman 1991. Field review of fish habitat improvement projects in the Grande Ronde and John Day River Basins of eastern Oregon. DOE/BP-21493-1. US Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration
☐	Beschta, R. L., W.S. Platts, J. B. Kauffman, and M.T. Hill 1994. Artificial stream restoration--money well-spent or an expensive failure? Universities Council on Water Resources Annual Conference, Big Sky Montana, Carbondale, IL

☐	BPA 1997a. Watershed Management Program Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS - 0265. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR
☐	BPA 1997b. Wildlife Mitigation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS - 0246. Portland, OR
☐	BPA 1997b. Wildlife Mitigation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS - 0246. Portland, OR
☐	BPA 1997c. Wildlife Mitigation Program Record of Decision. DOE/EIS - 0246. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, OR
☐	CRITFC 1995. Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi-Wa-Kush-Wit: The spirit of the salmon. Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, Portland, OR
☐	Csuti, B., A.J. Kimerling, T.A. O'Neil, M.M. Shaughnessy, E. Gaines, M.M.P. Huso. 1997. Atlas of Oregon Wildlife: distribution, habitat, and natural history. Oregon State University Press, Corvallis, OR.
☐	Farthing, P. 1994. Watershed Education Project: GWEB Grant Proposals - Periodic Evaluation and Completion Reports for 1988, 1989, 1990 Project Years. Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Portland, Oregon .
☐	Production Plan. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, OR NPPC 1990. John Day River Subbasin Salmon & Steelhead .
☐	NPPC 1994. Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. NPPC 94-55. Northwest Power Planning Council, Portland, OR .
☐	ODFW 1997. Assessing Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project Using GAP Analysis. In fullfillment of Project Number 95-65, Contract Number DE-BI179-92BP90299. Prepare for: U.S. Bonneville Power Administration; Project Cooperators: U.S, Fish and Wildlif.
☐	WCSWCD 1987. Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board Application for Grant Funds: Pine Creek Watershed Rehabilitation Project. Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District, .
☐	WCSWCD 1991. Monitoring and Evaluation Report, Pine Creek Project Phase I and II, December 1989 -- November 1990. .
☐	WCSWCD 1992. Monitoring/Evaluation Report, Pine Creek Project Phase I, November 1990 -- June 1992. .
☐	Wissmar, R. C., J.E. Smith, B.A. McIntosh, H.W. Li, G.H. Reeves, J.R.

	Sedell. 1994. A history of Resource use and disturbance in riverine basins of Eastern Oregon and Washington (early 1800s-1900s). Northwest Science 68: 1-35.

PART II - NARRATIVE

Section 7. Abstract

The CTWSRO is proposing to acquire the Pine Creek Ranch, thus allowing management of the entire Pine Creek watershed. Objectives would include: removal of livestock from damaged riparian and upland areas, fencing, noxious weed control and burning to remove juniper.
This specific proposal will provide O&M and M&E funding to allow proper management of the Ranch.
The project will benefit a rich and diverse group of fish, wildlife, and plant species. Pine Creek watershed supplies habitats for at least 36 animal and plant species that are listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered. Pine Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for one of the few remaining native steelhead populations in the lower John Day River basin. The property also provides important wintering habitat for deer and elk. Nine of the target wildlife species identified in conjunction with the John Day project are present at Pine Creek. There is the potential to reintroduce several native wildlife species.

Section 8. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon are submitting this proposal under the Northwest Power Planning and Conservation Act, Public Law 96-501. The NPPC's fish and wildlife program requires BPA to provide O&M funding for as long as the hyropower system operates (NPPC 1994, Measure 11.2c.1).
The John Day Basin is home to the sovereign Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. Pine Creek watershed lies within the Tribes ceded area and drains approximately 42,000 acres of arid rangeland in northwestern Wheeler County. The creek is a tributary to the mainstem of the John Day River with it's confluence near Clarno.
The goal of the Confederated Tribes is to restore the ecosystem functions of the Pine Creek watershed through protection and enhancement of its many rich and diverse resources. This will be accomplished primarily using passive restoration techniques that will focus on the cessation of activities that are causing degradation or preventing recovery of the watershed. This will be done throughout the watershed, not just within the riparian corridor.

Pine Creek Watershed

Pine Creek is a tributary to the mainstem of the John Day River, and parallels state route 218 for 12 miles before it's confluence near Clarno. This section of the creek flows westerly at about 1500 ft elevation with a 2.5% gradient.

Uncontrolled cattle grazing, especially in the riparian zone, has degraded habitat, caused severe erosion, and decimated the creek's once productive steelhead and native trout populations(WCSWCD 1987). Removal of riparian vegetation coupled with trampled banks and summer thunderstorms have caused deep downcutting (7-10 ft at many locations) and widening of the channel. These problems are compounded by changes in the native vegetative community. Fire suppression has allowed juniper trees to flourish. These trees consume groundwater year-round, and through competition with native grasses cause large patches of bare ground to develop (WCSWCD 1987)

In 1987, the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB) funded the Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District (WCSWCD) to carry out the Pine Creek Restoration Project. The restoration project was conducted in two phases. Phase I (total cost _ $87,000) began in 1988 and focused on the lower portion of the watershed. Grazing plans were developed for approximately 13,000 acres (two landowners), and juniper trees were removed from 500 acres. About 14 miles of fencing were constructed to help control livestock through rotation grazing. Instream restoration work included the construction of 15 rock check dams, debris bars, and willow plantings (7000 along one mile. Phase II of the project (total cost _ $140,000) began in the spring of 1990, and focused on juniper control, spring developments, and irrigation management in the upper watershed (WCSWCD 1987, WCSWCD 1989).

Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual monitoring reports describe stream channel improvements as a result of the restoration efforts. After the first high water period the rock check dams had completely silted in, and vegetation began to re-establish. The vegetative and structural improvements withstood a 15-year storm (July 5, 1990) which deposited six inches of sediment behind the check dams. Juniper riprap has collected sediment and helped to stabilize slopes. The willow plantings have performed well despite 1990 summer drought conditions, and more fish have been observed (visual) in the creek(WCSWCD 1991, WCSWCD 1992).

Monitoring by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) between July 1988 and July 1990 also indicated stream channel improvements: decreased stream width (8.2 to 5.3 ft.), more pools (0% to 17%), better pool/riffle ratio (72:25 to 63:37), and more deciduous vegetation (sparse to abundant) (WCSWCD 1992). {*Note: These data are given as presented in the SWCD Monitoring/Evaluation report. There is a discrepancy between the 0% pools in 1988 and the pool/riffle ratio of 72:25. This difference is probably due to the incorporation of run/bend data in the pool/riffle ratio.*}

Despite these notable improvements, cattle grazing continued to be a problem on Pine Creek. For example, Oregon Trout (a non-profit sport fishing and environmental

organization) reported in May of 1990 that riparian vegetation along a one mile segment of the GWEB project area had been decimated by cattle grazing. GWEB staff(Stahr 1990) verified Oregon Trout's complaint. It was estimated that $30,000 of GWEB funds had been spent on this segment(Elder 1990).

b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs

This project is in the John Day Subbasin, the only subbasin in the Columbia River basin that supports totally wild populations of salmon and steelhead (NPPC 1990). It is the second largest undammed river in the United States and the fourth largest drainage area in the state (21,072 km^2) (Wissmar 1994). The current condition of the basin is documented in the John Day River Subbasin Plan (NPPC 1990) which concluded that riparian habitat degradation is the most serious habitat problem in the John Day Basin with approximately 660 degraded stream miles identified (NPPC 1990). The stated objective for the basin is to "Protect existing anadromous fish habitat by preventing further watershed degradation and the resulting changes in quality, quantity and instream habitat" (NPPC 1990). This objective has also been incorporated into the tribal restoration plan Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit (CRITFC 1995). While populations in the upper portion of the basin are in moderately good condition, populations in the lower mainstem area are in poor shape and declining (USDA 1996). Steelhead are being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Since one of the primary objectives of this project is to protect and enhance the wild steelhead in the Pine Creek system it should substantively help in eliminating the continued decline of wild steelhead runs in the John Day basin. This is consistent with the plan for steelhead that is being developed by the State of Oregon and being presented to NMFS in order to prevent listing.

Additionally, the area in question has been identified through GAP analysis to be an important corridor that provides connectivity for a variety of key wildlife species and habitats (ODFW 1997). The project provides linkages to several BLM parcels considered for wilderness status and federal lands managed by the National Park Service. The lower John Day Basin from Service Creek (Rm 10) to Tumwater Falls (Rm 10) is included in the federal and Oregon wild and scenic waterways system. The portion of the project that fronts the mainstem John Day will provide a linkage to federally owned upstream and downstream areas. Because of this, the site has been identified as a high priority wildlife mitigation site by the Oregon Wildlife Coalition (ODFW 1997)

c. Relationships to other projects

<u>Securing Wildlife Mitigation Sites - Oregon</u>
This umbrella project proposal describes wildlife mitigation planning and implementation strategies for Oregon. It includes a list of specific mitigation projects that have been

identified by the Oregon Coalition as high priority sites. Pine Creek Ranch is one of these sites that has been sponsored by the Oregon Wildlife Coalition.

Assessing Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Using GAP Analysis
The purpose of this project was to develope strategies for implementing wildlife mitigation in Oregon. Pine Creek Ranch was identified as a high priority mitigation site.

Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project
Oregon's wildlife managers initiated this project as a means of achieving a trust agreement with BPA to implement wildlife mitigation in Oregon. A database of potential wildlife mitigation sites was created along with associated mitigation costs.

d. Project history (for ongoing projects)

Pine Creek Ranch was initially submitted as a BPA mitigation opportunity in 1998. The project was approved by the ISRP and subsequently the NWPPC. Funding was approved from both watershed and wildlife budgets in 1998. This funding was dedicated to establishing pre-acquisition costs and management plans for the property. Acquisition funds were scheduled and approved from both watershed and wildlife budgets. The Trust for Public Lands engaged the ranch owner in property sale negotiations, however, after several monthes of effort, the negotiations stalled. The CTWSRO met with the ranch owner in late August,1998 and were successful in reactivating land purchase negotiations for the property. The CTWSRO is currently working with BPA in development of a contract to proceed with pre-acquisition appraisel and surveys of the Pine Creek Ranch.

e. Proposal objectives

Objectives would include: removal of livestock from damaged riparian and upland areas, fencing, noxious weed control and burning to remove juniper.
Currently streams in the project area suffer from grazing impacts. Removal of livestock will allow the stream and riparian areas to stabilize over time.
Upland enhancement activities will include noxious weed control on some farmed tracts and juniper removal through burning.
Previous enhancement activities by GWEB indicates the watershed responds well to treatment. In the future "passive restoration"will be the direction used to manage this watershed. Since there is a wealth of baseline information on this project, some going back as far as 45 years, monitoring and evaluation should be easily accomplished.

f. Methods

Objective 1. Operation and Maintenance of Pine Creek Ranch
- Implement noxious weed control measures using appropriate herbicides and other removal methods.
- Remove livestock from degraded and sensitive areas.
- Coordinate livestock management plans with local grazers.

- Construct fences, gates and cattleguards as needed.
- Close or block roads that have been identified as unneeded.
- Implement riparion improvements as identified in riparion assessment.
- Implement upland habitat projects as identified in upland habitat plan.
- Coordinate and consult with local landowners including adjacent property owners and county, state and federal agencies on Ranch management plans and cooperative needs.

Objective 2. Monitoring and Evaluation of Pine Creek Ranch
- Conduct surveys to determine population size and distribution of fish and wildlife species.
- Establish photo points to document changes in fish and wildlife habitats.
- Conduct a Habitat Evaluation Procedure to gather data on wildlife habitat values.
- Compare before and after results from various plan implementation.

g. Facilities and equipment

No new facilities are anticipated, however some maintenance and improvement is anticipated for the existing buildings on the Ranch. A range drill and an ATV are projected to be purchased. Livestock control devices such as fencing, gates and cattleguards will be utilized. Maintenance for a ranch vehicle is also needed.

h. Budget

Personnel
A Ranch Manager will be retained to insure proper management of the ranch occurs.

Fringe Benefits
The Tribe's fringe benefit rate is approximately 23%.

Supplies, Materials, non-expendable property
A range drill, ATV, fence supplies, chemicals and herbicides for controlling noxious weeds, gates to control livestock and people and native plant seed are anticipated.

Operations and Maintenance
Maintenance funds for ranch vehicles, ranch structures and other ranch equipment.

Indirect Costs
The Tribes indirect cost rate is currently 41.4%

Subcontractor
Due to the extensive size of the ranch a helicopter will be contracted to assist with a wildlife surveys.

Section 9. Key personnel

Terry A. Luther, Fish, Wildlife and Parks Manager,
B.S. Wildlife Science, Oregon State University, 1976.
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

Currently responsible for the management and supervision of Fisheries,Wildlife and Parks programs on and off the Reservation. This involves oversight of 18 different projects and contracts including two ceded area offices in Hood River and John Day, Oregon. Other responsibilities involve; timber harvest impacts to fish and wildlife resources, developement and implementation of integrated plans for fish and wildlife resources, FERC coordination, wildlife mitigation efforts, bull trout research and spotted owl project monitoring.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Information transfer and exchange will be accomplished through a variety of methods including: telephone, fax, computor e-mail and meetings. Plans and reports including: HEP evaluations, management plans and monitoring and evaluation findings will be distributed to all interested parties.)

Congratulations!